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# FOREIGN OUTLOOK: ONCE AGAIN THE CIA IS FORSAKING ITS ALLIES

In the past, I have documented how the CIA has recruited, trained and armed native guerrillas in such faraway places as Laos and Iraq, then has abandoned them to be slaughtered by government troops. Now it is happening all over again.

As usual, the sordid details have been swept under the secrecy label. But my roving correspondent Jon Lee Anderson (no, we're not related) has gone into the backwaters of Nicaragua to get the facts. At considerable risk, he slipped past army patrols and slogged through swamps.

He traveled with the Nicaraguan guerrilla force called Misura -- for the Miskito, Sumo and Rama Indians who make up its ranks. They were once a proud and dedicated band of some 2,000 young men fighting for the freedom to live unmolested in their poverty-stricken homeland along the Atlantic coast. Now the Misura has dwindled to no more than a few hundred ill-equipped soldiers, many of them incapacitated by festering wounds that have gone untreated, or by amputations that were the only means of saving their lives. Food and ammunition are in short supply, available only as occasional handouts from the comparatively fat Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

The CIA organized and encouraged the Misura force, then cut off its supplies except for a few miserable leftovers from the favored contra group, the FDN. The Indians who escape to Honduras are still badly treated. My reporter was appalled at the sight of Misura wounded living in a squalid "safe house" in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. They are fed, grudgingly, by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. But they aren't getting the medical attention they desperately need.

Their homeland is now infested with government troops, whom they no longer have means to resist. These disillusioned young men spend their days lying around in the little block-house on the edge of town, without hope and without a future. Forsaken by the CIA, as in the earlier betrayals, the Misura castoffs can say with truth and bitterness: "No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam."

The question is not whether the CIA should have recruited these guerrilla fighters. The CIA did recruit them. It is wrong now to abandon them and pretend they don't exist.